

# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



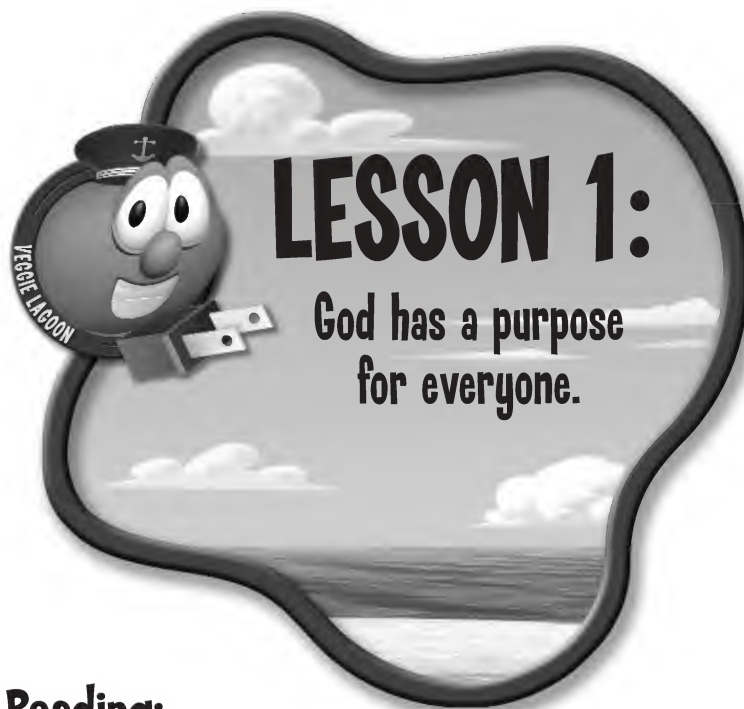
## PROGRAM VERSE:

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8

**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**faith**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



The birth of Moses:  
**Exodus 2:1-10**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Take some time today to explore the new site!
- Sit with the children on their level whenever possible. This will help you to be more accessible to them.
- If the kids are having trouble listening to directions, try singing them! Put them to the tune of one of your favorite songs and you will be amazed at how the kids respond to your new technique.



**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**challenge**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses escapes into Midian:  
**Exodus 2:11-25**



## Leader Tips:

- Are you dealing with a Connection Kid who has trouble following the rules? Try to ignore the behavior when you can. Some preschoolers crave attention and negative attention just may encourage them to act out more often.
- Encourage your preschoolers to build their relationship with God by giving them lots of praise and prayer time.
- Let the children stand, jump, or hop while they praise God. Preschoolers love to move and they will have a fun experience praising God while in motion!

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**control**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



God talks to Moses  
from a burning bush:  
**Exodus 3:1–4:17**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Be sure to join in with the preschoolers whenever you are comfortable in singing songs, saying rhymes, or acting out motions.
- Enjoy the children in your *VeggieConnections Group*! What can you learn from them today?
- Pray for your fellow volunteers and their families.

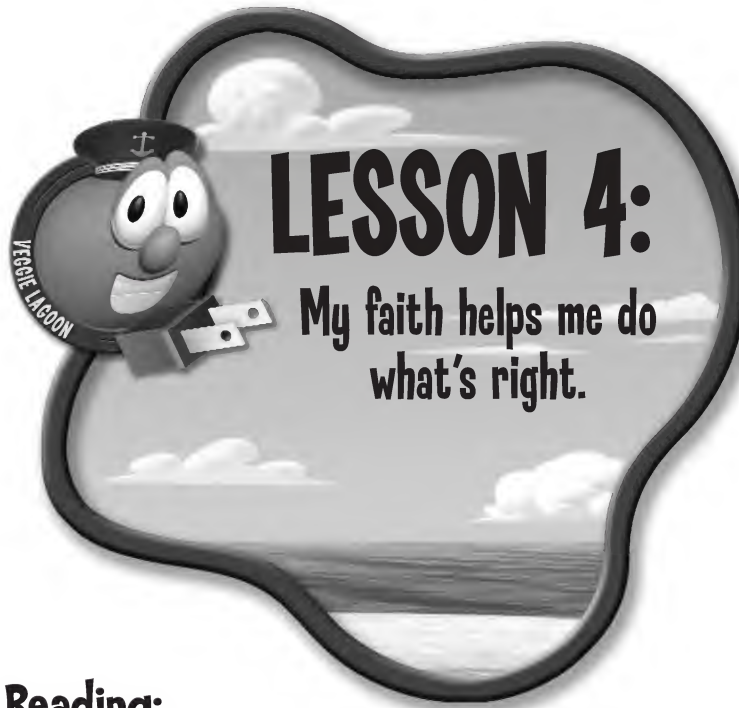




**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

plague



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses returns to Egypt:  
**Exodus 5:1–11:10**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

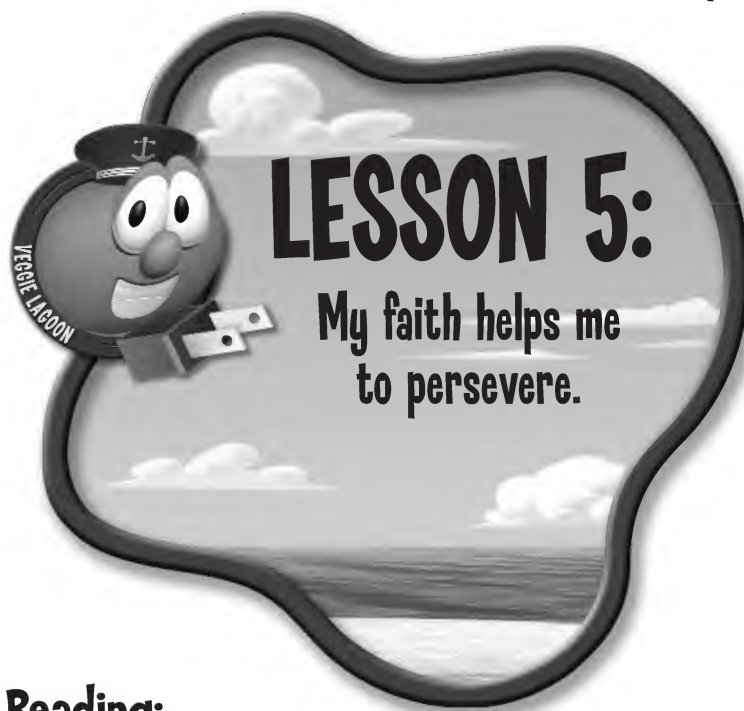
- Remember to continually encourage the children to Think-Link-Act.
- You can teach children compassion by simply being genuine in your responses to them.
- If you have a child with special needs in your *VeggieConnections Group*, ask your Director for information on their specific disability so you can learn more and better relate to the child.



**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**persevere**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses helps the Hebrews prepare:  
**Exodus 12:1–13:16**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Perseverance is a tough word to say. Try breaking it down by syllables to help the preschoolers learn the term.
- Add the children of *Compassion International* in to your prayers today.
- You are a blessing to this ministry! If you ever feel overwhelmed, share your concerns with your Director.



**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**chariot**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses leads God's people through the Red Sea:  
**Exodus 13:17–14:31**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!



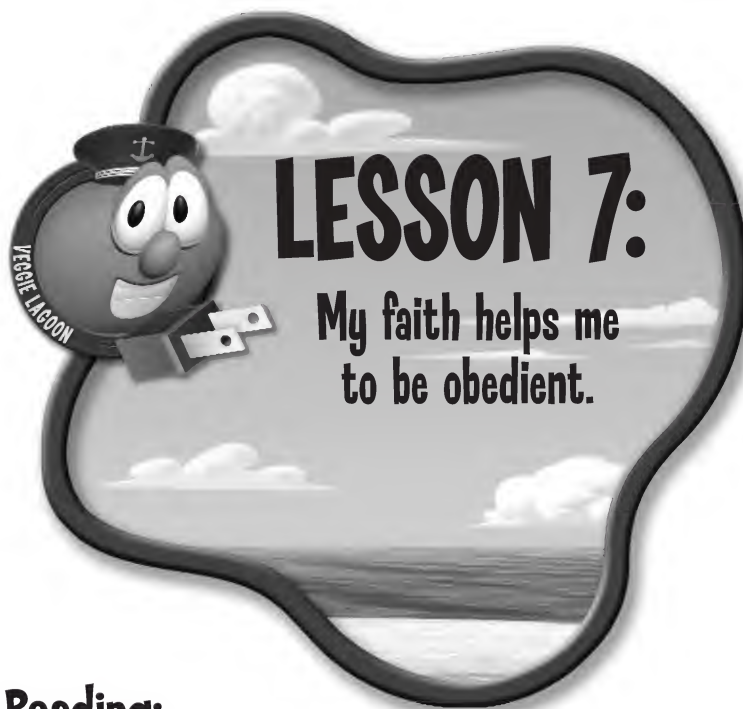
## Leader Tips:

- Make sure that you are always on time. That reassures the children that you truly care for the time you spend together.
- Preschoolers don't always enjoy playing or working closely with their peers. This is natural, try to respect when they want to be alone.
- If you ever need to place your preschoolers in to a smaller group, do it by a random choosing such as type of shoes, or color of socks.

**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**commandment**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses receives  
the Ten Commandments:  
**Exodus 19:1–20:21**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Be sure to invite the children to pray with you each week.
- Children under the age of five are very literal thinkers. They take each word they hear to be fact. Choose your words carefully and with love!
- Preschoolers have difficulty following more than two or three commands at a time; keep things simple!

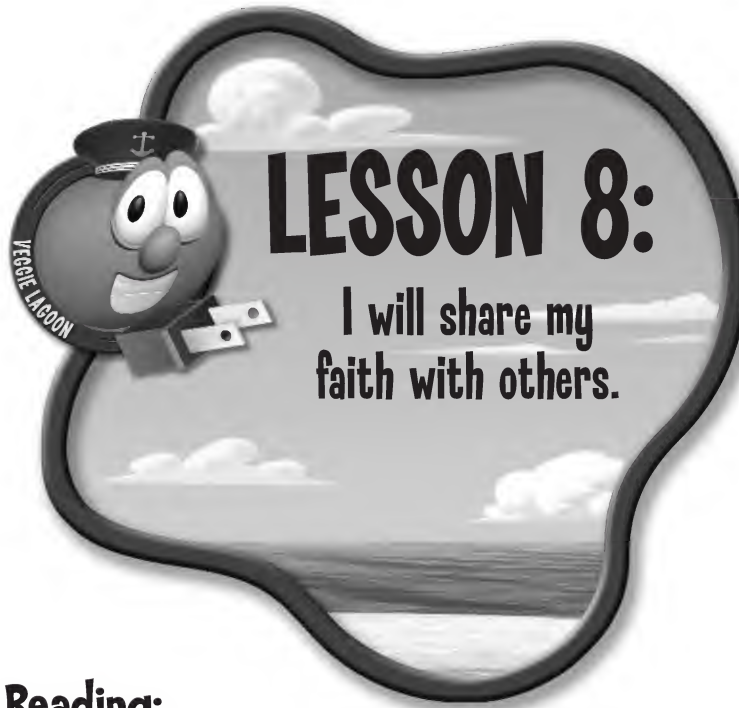




**Unit Verse:** "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hebrews 11:1

Connection Word:

**witness**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Faith** using **Moses** as our example



Moses shares his faith:  
**Deuteronomy 11:1-21;**  
**Hebrews 24-28**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Take a moment before the children arrive today and ask God to bless your special time with them.
- You are God's light to the children in this program. Use every opportunity you can to show them God's love!
- Preschoolers love to do things "myself." Encourage that independence as often as possible.



# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Communication** through **Paul's Ministry**



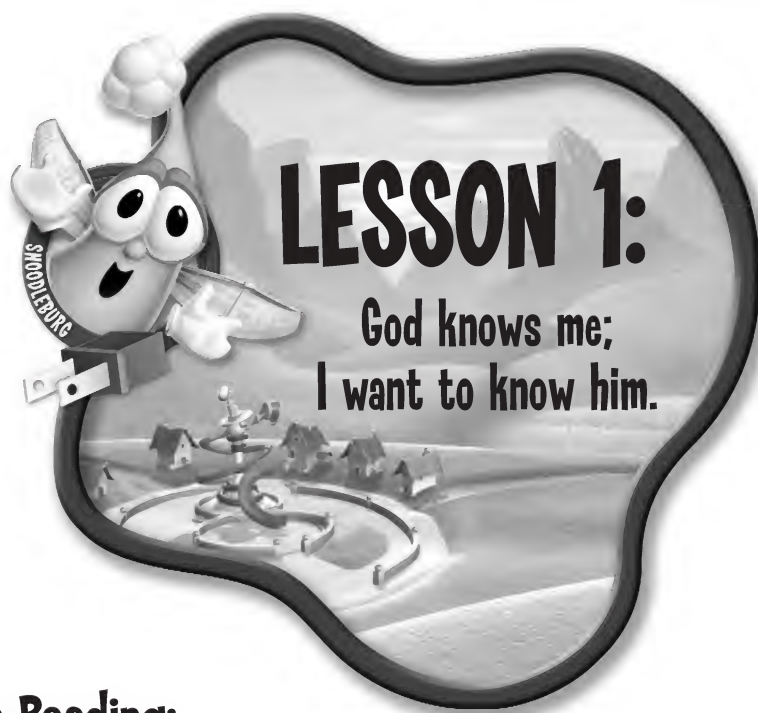
## PROGRAM VERSE:

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8

**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**communication**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Jesus speaks to Saul:  
**Acts 9:1-19**

## Leader Tips:

- Saul changed his name to Paul after he became a believer. This may confuse kids a bit.
- Encourage kids to talk to God daily.
- Kids may be shy; don't force them to participate. Encourage them as they seem ready.

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

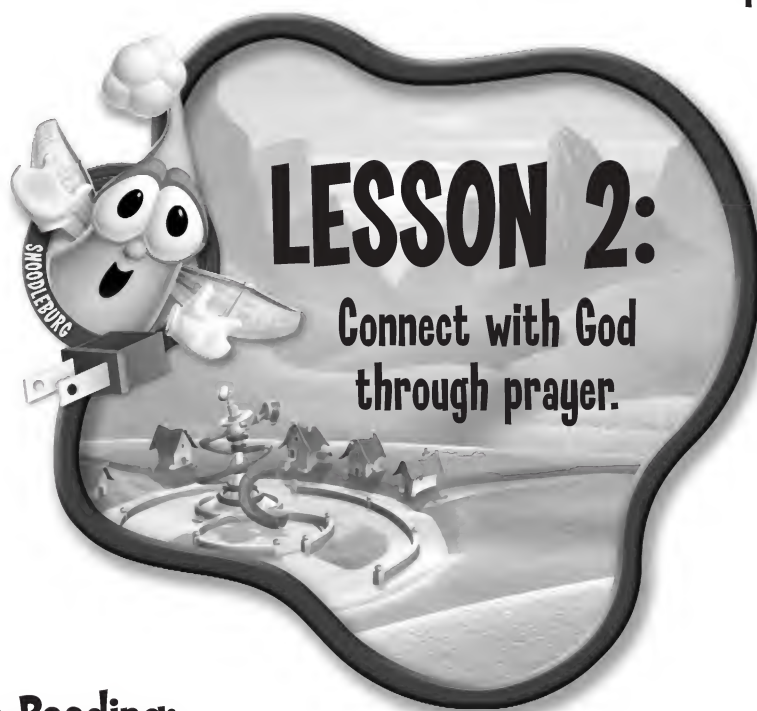
**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!



**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**prayer**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul prays for the  
church in Colossae:  
**Colossians 1:1-14**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Ask your group if they know how to pray; model it for them.
- Help all kids participate in activities by encouraging them with verbal praise.
- No matter what your day is like, always share smiles with your group. You'll find that they are contagious!

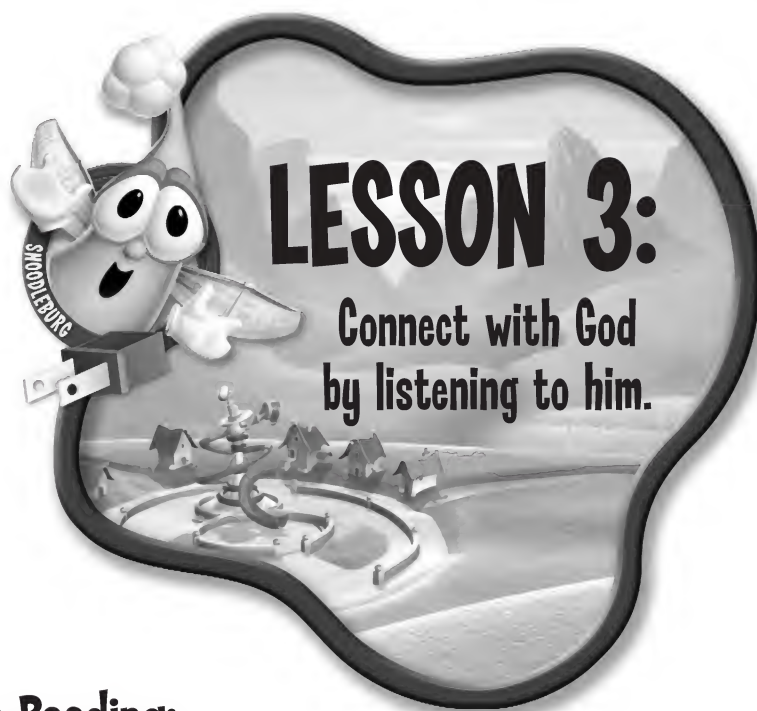




**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**listen**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul listens to God:  
**Acts 16:6-10**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Encourage "listening ears" throughout today's lesson.
- Challenge kids to really listen and acknowledge anyone you "catch" listening with a special sign such as a wink or a big smile.
- When the kids are asked to do specific tasks in the lesson, join in!



**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**worship**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul and Silas worship  
God from prison:  
**Acts 16:16-36**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Sharing is a hard concept for preschoolers to learn; be very patient!
- Be aware that some kids may be nervous during the earthquake re-enactment. By simply sitting right with the group, the kids will be reassured.
- If a child is consistently withdrawn, take the time to develop a relationship with him or her. Maybe an adult role model to look up to is what's needed.



**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**armor**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul explains about the  
armor of God:  
**Ephesians 6:10-20**



## Leader Tips:

- Does God equip us with actual, physical armor? No, he provides us with the tools to build ourselves strong. This may be a tricky concept for preschoolers.
- Preschooler having a bad day? Give him or her the benefit of the doubt. At this age, kids are really developing their sense of self. It can be exhausting!
- Pray for God to take your words today and communicate them to preschool hearts, bringing the children to a deeper relationship with him.

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!



**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**Holy Spirit**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul explains how  
to live by the Spirit:  
**Galatians 5:16-26**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Share the Unit Memory Verse (Matthew 7:7) with the preschoolers often, and ask them to repeat it back to you.
- Make sure all kids have a chance to volunteer to be a helper.
- Energetic preschooler? Encourage him or her to sit right next to you with "pretzel legs" and "peanut butter lips."

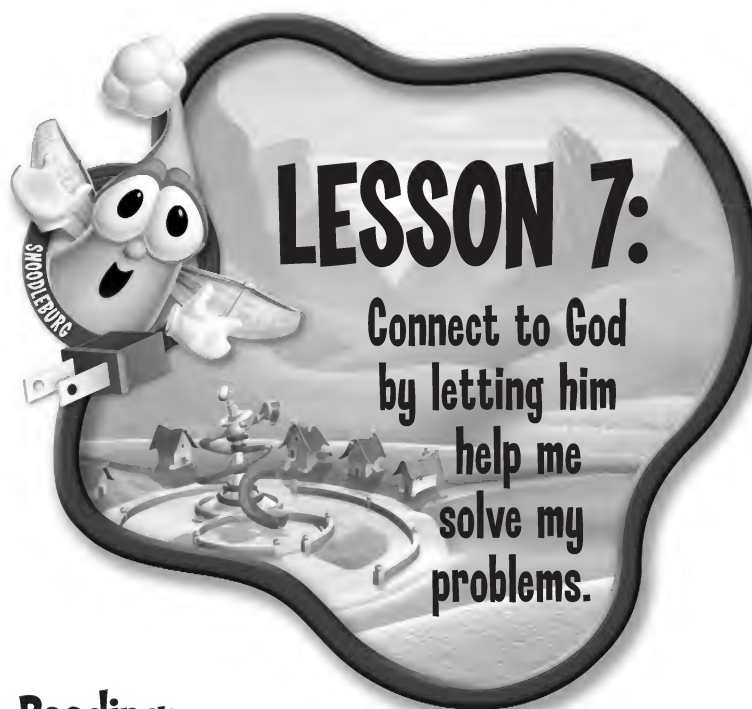




**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

help



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul sails for Rome:  
**Acts 27:1-44**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

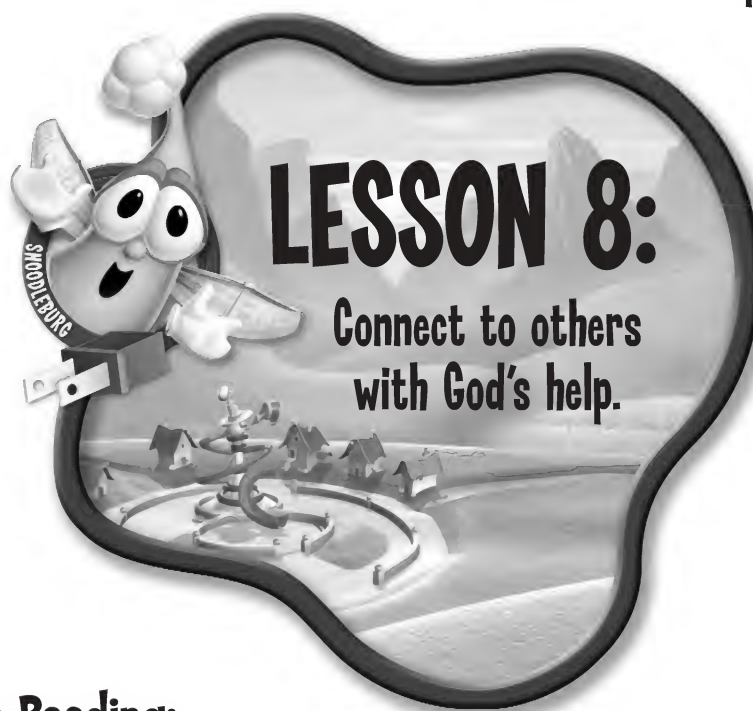
- Puzzles can be frustrating for preschoolers; help guide them through.
- The concept of having problems is somewhat foreign to preschoolers. Think on their level and encourage thoughtful responses by asking them direct questions and using simple language.
- Preschoolers love to imitate. If your group has down time, play a simple, nonverbal game of Simon Says.



**Unit Verse:** "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." Matthew 7:7

Connection Word:

**preach**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Communication** through  
**Paul's Ministry**



Paul tells others about God:  
**Acts 9:20-31**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Be prepared to share the Good News in your life in very simple words to the preschoolers in your group.
- Lesson 8 is very exciting and upbeat; gear up for a happy day!
- Preschoolers are, by nature, very focused on themselves. As they share news, model excellent listening skills.



# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**

**UNIT  
THREE:**

## THE **LOVE** CONNECTION

**UNIT VERSE:** "Love the Lord your  
God with all your heart. ...  
Love your neighbor as yourself."  
Matthew 22:37, 39

### **PROGRAM VERSE:**

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8

**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

love



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and Nicodemus:  
**John 3:1-21**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Flibber-o-loo is an exciting site! Let the kids explore throughout the lesson as time permits.
- Preschoolers are just developing fine motor skills such as cutting.
- As you start this unit on love, ask the kids who they love. This is a question everyone will be able to answer!

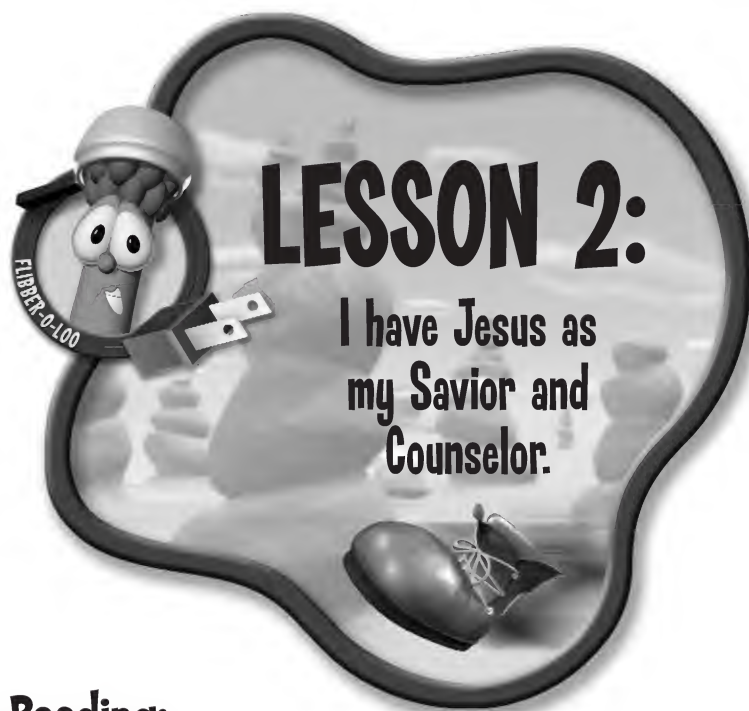




**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

**counselor**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and the Holy Spirit:  
**John 16:5-15**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

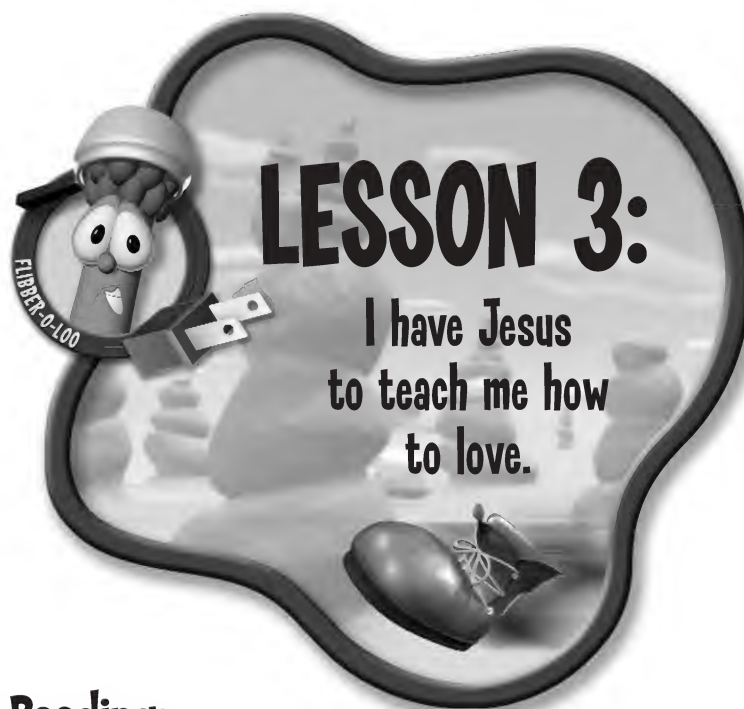
- Veggie Connection segment-help kids wait for their turn by reminding them it's their turn when they are holding the plush toy.
- Model prayer by praying with the kids.
- The concept of the Holy Spirit is introduced, be prepared for questions.



**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

**teach**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus teaches the  
Beatitudes:  
**Matthew 5:1-12**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- During Veggie Connection segment, two volunteers will re-enact the battle of Flibber-o-loo; some preschoolers may be concerned. Reassure the preschoolers that the volunteers are just pretending.
- For some preschoolers, this may be their first interaction with a Bible. Let them leaf through it if interested.
- Be sure to help preschoolers switch hats during the God Connection portion of the lesson.



**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

source



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and his disciples:  
**Matthew 14:22-36**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:



- The preschoolers will often sing this song to the tune of *Mulberry Bush*:

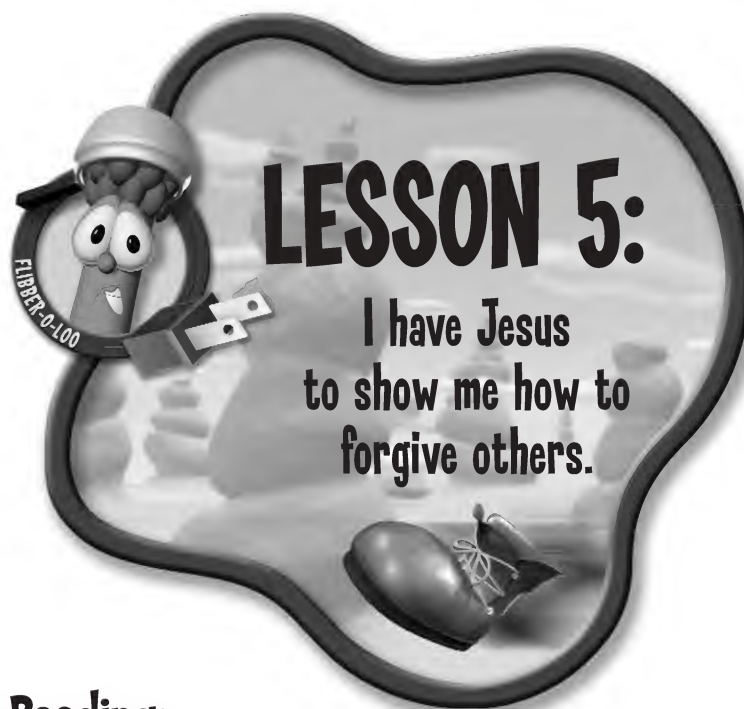
We're all getting ready to look it up,  
Look it up, look it up.  
We're all getting ready to look it up,  
In our dic-tion-a-ry.

- The focus for today's lesson is that if we keep our eyes on Jesus, all things are possible. Explain to the children that when Jesus is the focus of our lives, we can do anything. Even walking on water!
- Dealing with a giggly group? Ask the gigglers to laugh as much as they can for a period of two minutes. Join in the fun!

**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

**forgive**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and others:  
**Luke 15:11-32**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Help to make sure the Jibberty-lot hats stay on the kid's heads.
- Forgiveness is such an important act. Be ready to share acts of forgiveness, and how it made you feel, with your *Veggie-Connections Group*.

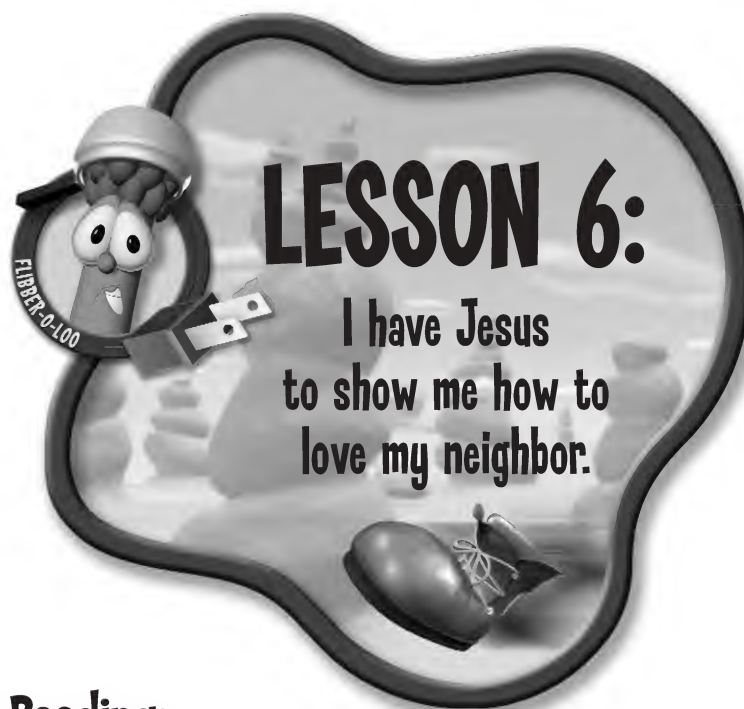




**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

**neighbor**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and the parable of the good Samaritan:

**Luke 10:25-37**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Remember the Program Verse: "Come near to God and he will come near to you," James 4:8.
- Kids will wear shoes on their hands for the God Connection segment. Show the preschoolers how to do it and not to be silly or squeamish.
- Preschoolers love to hear how great their work is. Heap lots of praise!



**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

obey



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus tells us how to show love:

**John 14:23-31a**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:



- Join in as the kids link arms during their prayer. As the *VeggieConnections Shepherd*, your involvement validates what they are doing.
- The big focus today is on obeying your parents. Discuss what it means to obey parents and suggest ways to speak politely to parents when asked to do something.
- Some children may take pride in the fact that they are disobedient. Gently remind them that we obey to honor God.

**Unit Verse:** "Love the Lord your God with all your heart. ... Love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 22:37, 39

Connection Word:

**servant**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Love** through **Jesus**



Jesus and his people:  
**Matthew 20:20-28**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:



- As Site Leaders ask for volunteers to help with lessons, make sure all *Veggie-Connections Shepherds* get a chance. Your kids will be so proud to see their Shepherd participating!
- Ask preschoolers throughout the day to share the Unit Memory Verse with you.
- Preschool potty issues? If the same child is constantly asking to use the restroom, kindly share with their parent at pick-up time that their child may want to use the restroom each week before the lesson begins.

# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



## PROGRAM VERSE:

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8



**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**trust**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



The story of Joseph:  
**Genesis 37:1-50:26**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

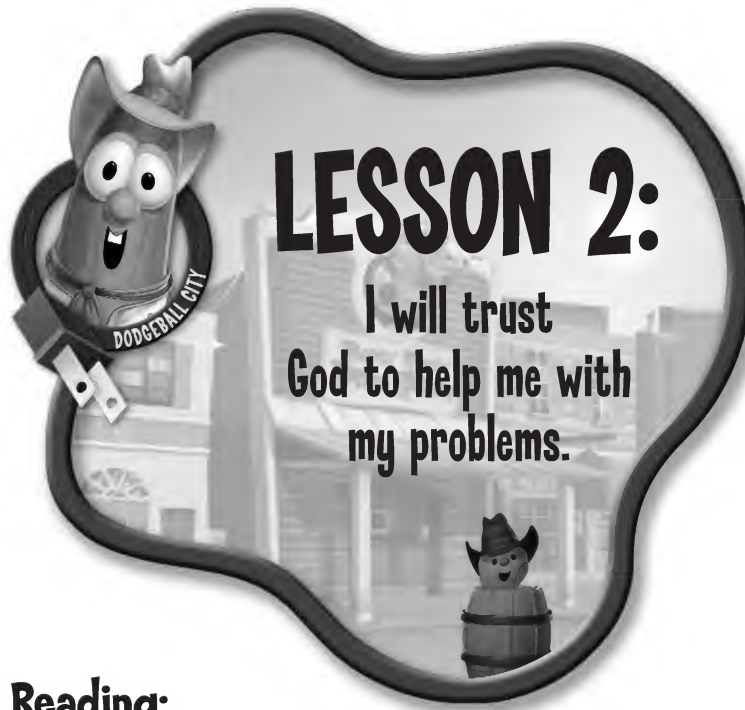
- Pray for the children in your group regularly.
- Arrive before the kids each week to give yourself time to get oriented to the day's activities.
- Encourage kids to Think-Link-Act throughout the day, each week. This will help reinforce an important tool in building their relationship with God.



**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**slavery**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph is sold into slavery:  
**Genesis 37:3-36**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Just for fun, you may want to speak like Deputy Dodge yourself today. Just add a little draaaawwl to your words!
- Pray for the other volunteers in your program.
- Are you missing one of your Connection Kids due to poor attendance? Ask your Director if you can contact them to let them know they are missed.



**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**temptation**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph is tempted to do wrong:  
**Genesis 39:1-20a**



## Leader Tips:

- If one of your Connection Kids seems unusually quiet, take some time to ask how he or she is doing. Really listen well; your relationship with the kids is important!
- Look into the children's eyes when you are speaking to them. This will help them connect to you and your words.
- Wiggly tot? He or she may be tired, restless, or need to use the restroom. Simply ask about the wiggles. You may choose to give the group a small break to move their bodies around a bit.

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**attitude**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph in prison:  
**Genesis 39:20b-23**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- You may occasionally be asked by the Site Leader to be a volunteer for something special. Jump right in! Your kids will love to watch you do something neat!
- If you choose to do a "squeeze prayer" today, remind kids to squeeze each others' hands very gently.
- High-five any volunteers from your group. A lot of praise goes a long way in developing a relationship with the kids!





**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**courage**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph and the  
cupbearer and baker:  
**Genesis 40:1-23**



## Leader Tips:

- This week's lesson focuses on courage. Try to think of some meaningful suggestions of times when the kids might need courage.
- Try to incorporate the courage that the children of *Compassion International* need in their daily lives.
- Do you have one Connection Kid who always wants to answer questions first? Praise that child for his or her enthusiasm, and then explain that you would like to hear from everyone in the group!

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

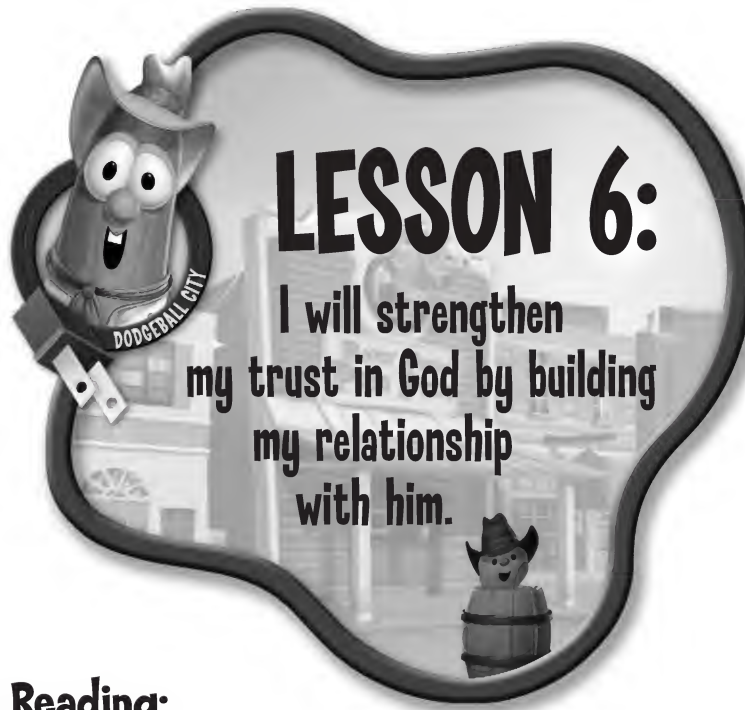
**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**interpret**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph interprets  
Pharaoh's dreams:  
**Genesis 41:1-40**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Focus on building relationships within your group today by partnering the kids with new friends or by having them pray for each other.
- Praise the kids when they share or show that they truly care for each other. Be a "Share and Care Detective!"
- Pray for the families of the children in your *VeggieConnections* Group.



**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

plan



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph is in charge of Egypt:  
**Genesis 41:41–45:15**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- When asking questions, be sure to ask more than "yes" or "no" questions. This will help to get the kids thinking.
- Can noisy preschoolers be productive preschoolers? YES! Pay close attention to your group during learning times as there are acceptable levels of noise.
- A smile is an easy way to let preschoolers know that you are proud of what they are doing.





**Unit Verse:** "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him."  
Romans 15:13a

Connection Word:

**reassure**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Trust** with life examples from **Joseph**



Joseph reassures his brothers:

**Genesis 50:15-21**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Give your Connection Kids little jobs each week such as line leader, song leader, or materials distributor.
- If you are having fun, your kids will be too!
- Preschoolers love to be the center of attention. Take some time today to give each child some extra attention just from you. This can be as simple as holding a hand or sitting next to a child.





# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Time** through the writings of the disciple **John**

## OPTIONAL:

You may want to use an easier Bible translation for memorizing the Unit Memory Verse, Psalm 90:12. The NIV and the NLT are good choices.



## PROGRAM VERSE:

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8

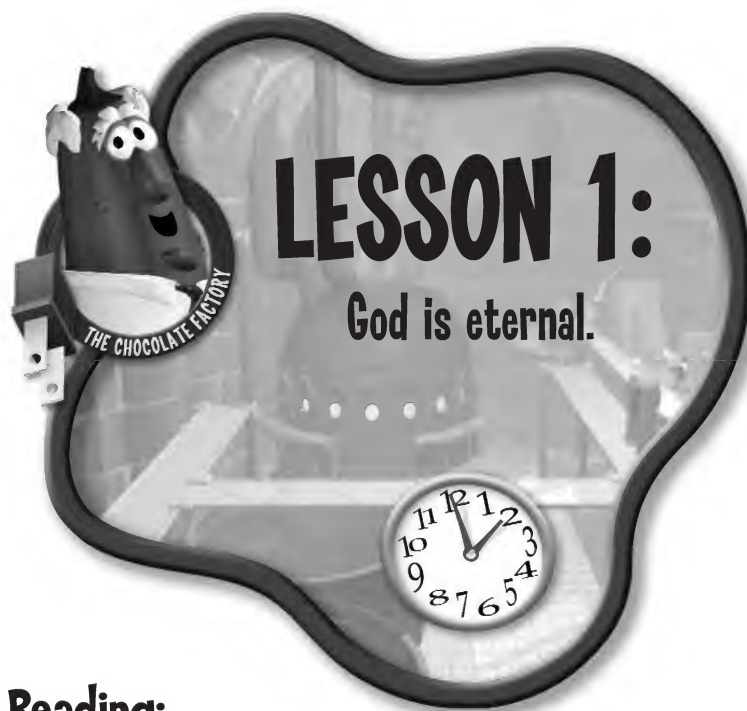
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aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."  
Psalm 90:12

**OPTIONAL:**

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easier Bible translation for  
memorizing the Unit  
Memory Verse, Psalm  
90:12. The NIV and the  
NLT are good choices.

Connection Word:

**eternal**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about how  
God became human:

**John 1:1-18; 1 John 5:13-18**

**Leader Tips:**

- Today is a busy day at the Chocolate Factory! Help the Site Leaders photograph all of the kids and help to keep some order in the site.
- When tots get frustrated because they are having trouble with their projects, remind them that God made them special, and you're sure their work will be special, too. A little encouragement goes a long way!



**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

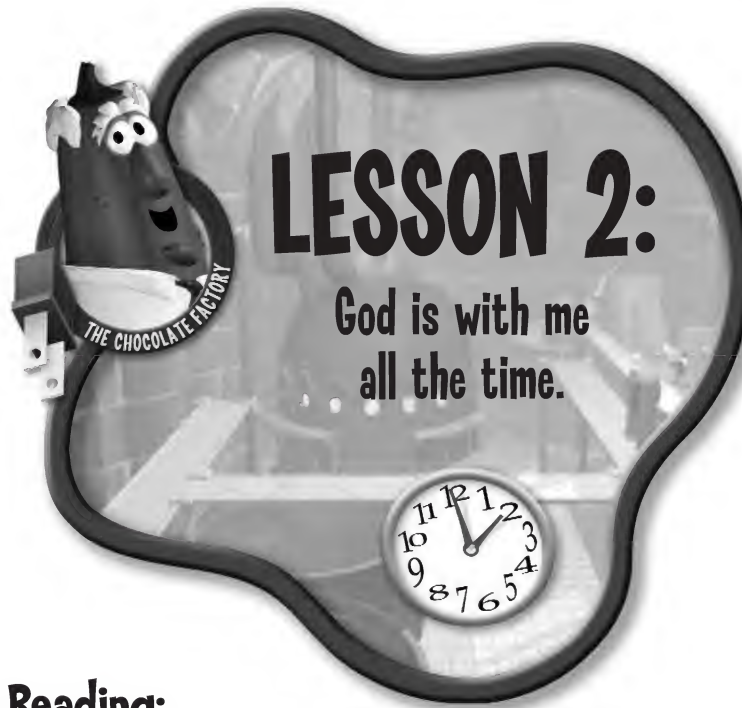
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Connection Word:

**Holy Spirit**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about  
the Holy Spirit:  
**John 14:15-29**

**Leader Tips:**

- The Holy Spirit is a difficult concept for preschoolers; be prepared for questions.
- Encourage tots to really use their imaginations today.
- Remind preschoolers to respect their teachers and friends by waiting until they are called on to respond.

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
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**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
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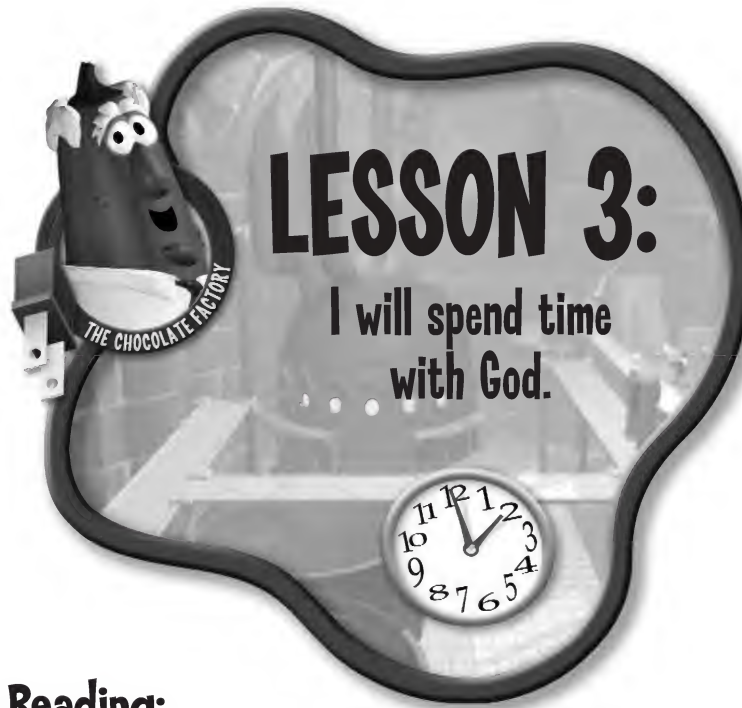
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Connection Word:

**light**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about  
walking in the light:  
**1 John 1:5-2:6**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

**Leader Tips:**

- As you guide the children to the site each week, play different games, like follow the leader, to move them quickly and quietly.
- During the Veggie Connections segment today, the kids may spend fun time with the teacher under the tables! Some kids may be apprehensive to go under the tables. That's okay, don't force them.
- Join in the closing prayer with your group by squeezing a hand.





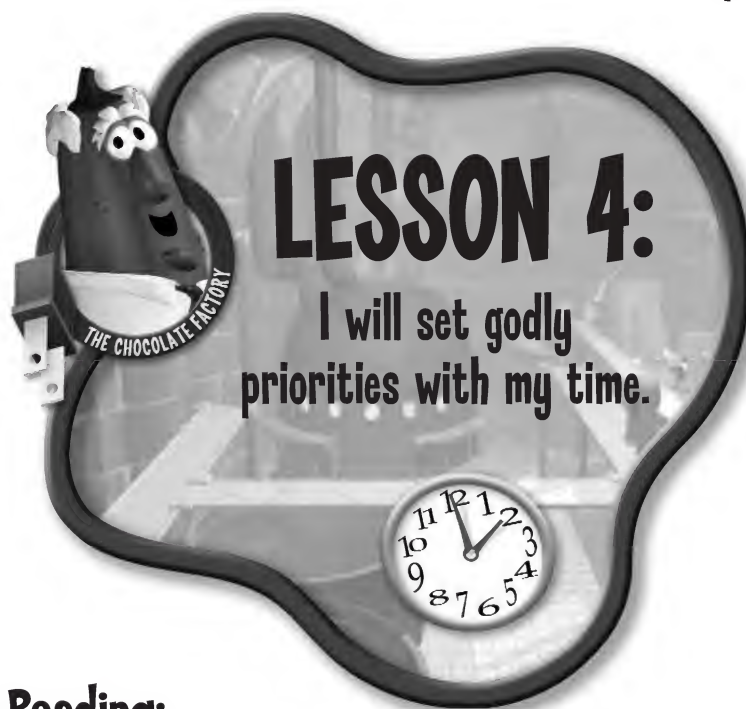
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NLT are good choices.

Connection Word:

**priority**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about  
Jesus' teachings:  
**John 15:1-17**

**Leader Tips:**

- Guide kids through the Factory clean-up. This is one job they need to get done!
- John was Jesus' friend. Help preschoolers to make that connection.
- Always be on the lookout for relationships with each other and with God to bring to the kid's attention.

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
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**Unit Verse:** "Teach us to number our days  
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Connection Word:

**patience**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about Lazarus:  
**John 11:1-44**

**Leader Tips:**

- Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. Be ready to explain how that was a miracle and has not happened often.
- People were impatient for Jesus to come and help Lazarus. Talk to the preschoolers about when they have felt impatient.
- Focus today on God's time, not ours.

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!



**Unit Verse:** "Teach us to number our days  
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NLT are good choices.

Connection Word:

**effort**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about what  
Jesus does in Cana  
and Jerusalem:

**John 2:1-11; 4:46-5:17**

**Leader Tips:**

- If kids don't want to wear the special caps on some days, that's okay!
- Kids may want to share their stories of knowing people with disabilities. It is so important to listen to what they want to tell you. If the timing is not appropriate, ask them to tell you later. Don't forget to follow up!

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

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**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
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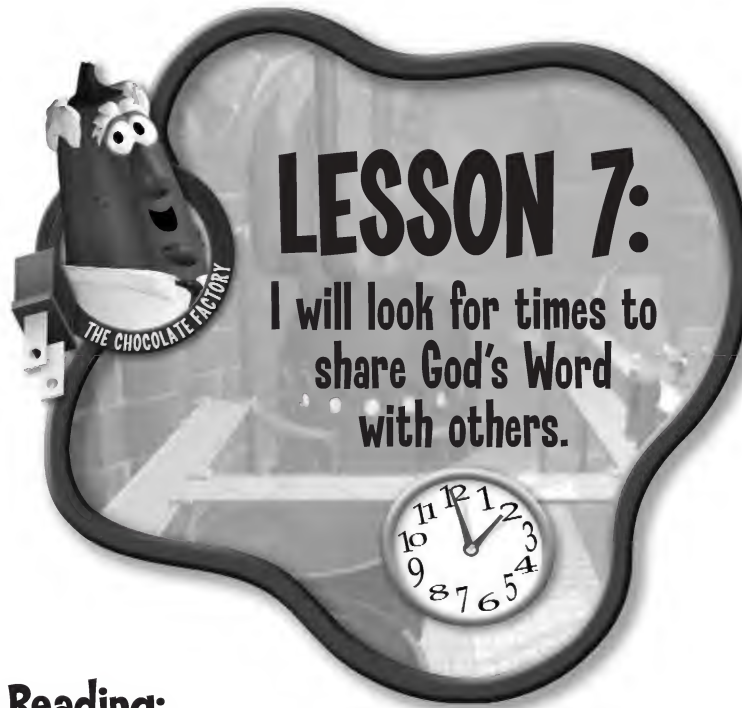
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Psalm 90:12

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Connection Word:

**living water**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about the  
woman at the well:

**John 4:1-38**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

**Leader Tips:**

- Clean-up time can be dreaded by preschoolers. Make a game of it by asking each child to pick up three things and bring it to you. You will be surprised at how fast clean-up can happen!
- Preschoolers love to please adults. Remember to give lots of praise when you catch them doing something good.
- If you need to reprimand a preschooler, do so gently and quietly.





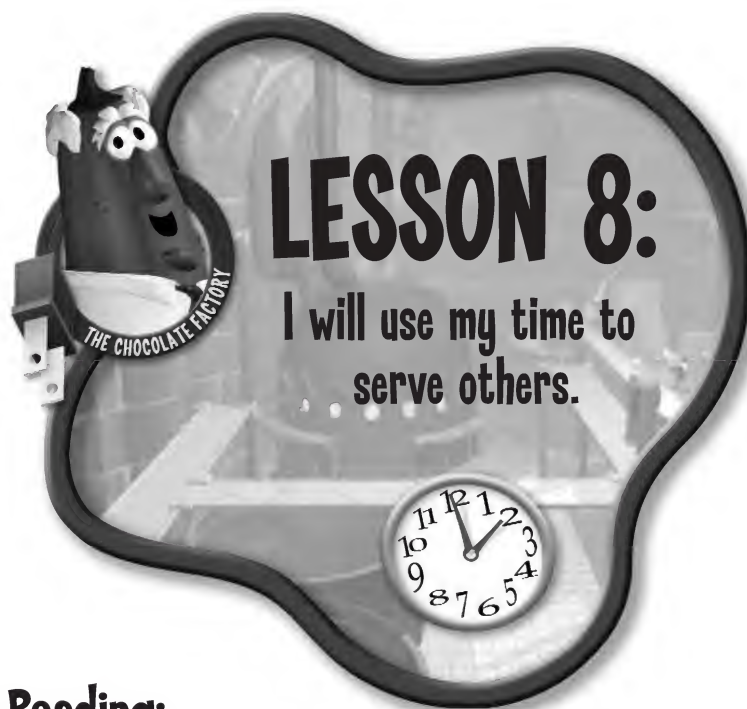
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Connection Word:

**serve**



**Today's Bible Reading:**

Connecting to **Time** through the writings  
of the disciple **John**



John writes about Jesus  
washing the disciples' feet:  
**John 13:1-20**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

**Leader Tips:**

- It's always a good idea to keep hand wipes with your group. It makes clean-up go quickly!
- Help keep wiggly preschoolers calm during foot washing. Respect any children's wishes not to participate.
- Create a special group signal to get the kids to calm down (an okay sign with your hand, one finger to your lips, or raise your hand in the air).



# PRESCHOOL SHEPHERD GUIDE

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at **David's** life



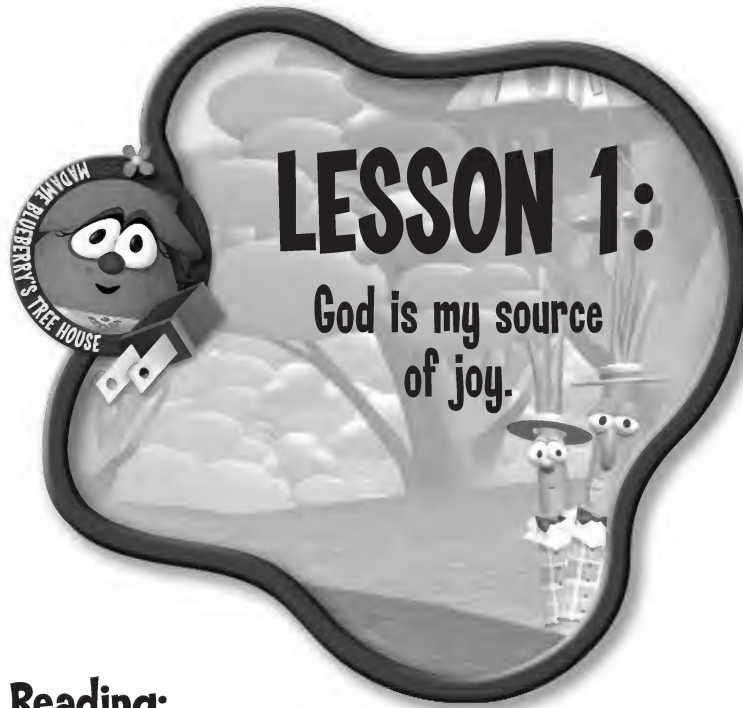
## PROGRAM VERSE:

"Come near to God and  
he will come near to you."  
James 4:8

**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

joy



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David shares his joy  
in the Lord:

**Psalms 24; 103; 104**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

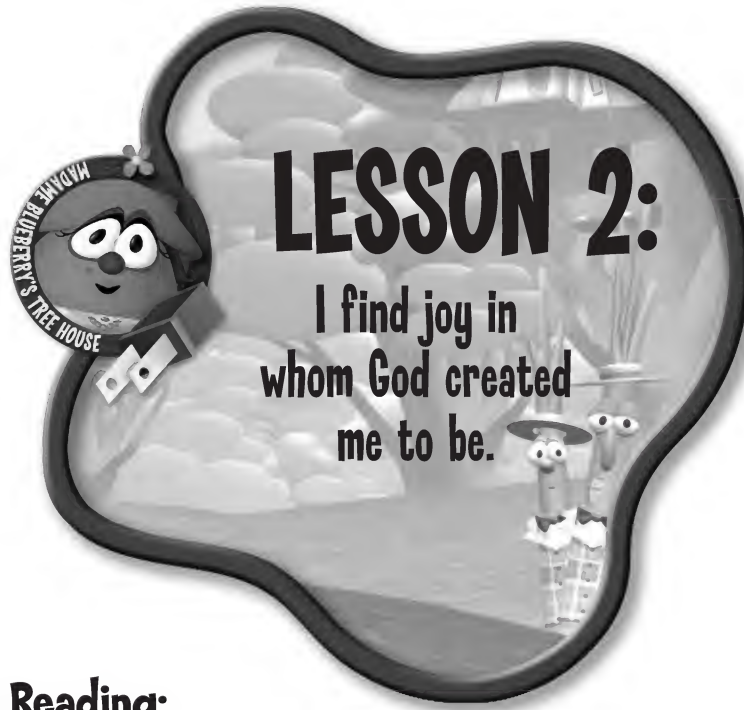


- The first moments in a new site are meant for exploration! Guide your kids around the Tree House and help to build excitement about what they might learn in the coming weeks.
- This is a site full of joy! If your kids are ever having a bad day, remind them that God is always in their heart and ready to bring them joy in his relationship with them.
- Always be ready with lots of patience for members of your group who may need a hand from time to time.

**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

**anoint**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at **David's** life



Samuel anoints David:  
**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

## Leader Tips:

- Encourage your group to pay close attention each week at the Countertop Connections.
- Be ready to pray for each child in your group by name today.
- It might be fun to create a simple hand-shake for your group to use each week!



**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

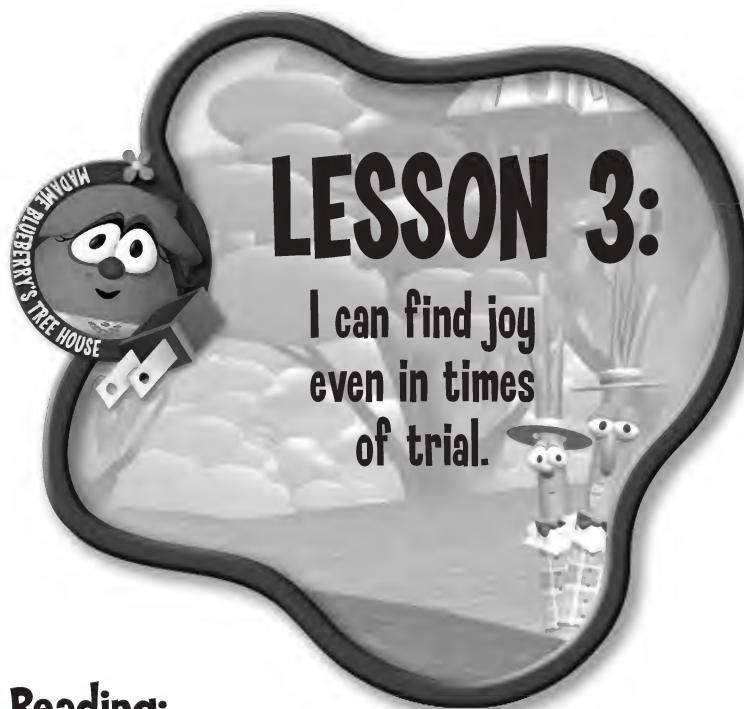
**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!



**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

**trial**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David fights both criticism  
from others and a big giant:  
**1 Samuel 17:1-50**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

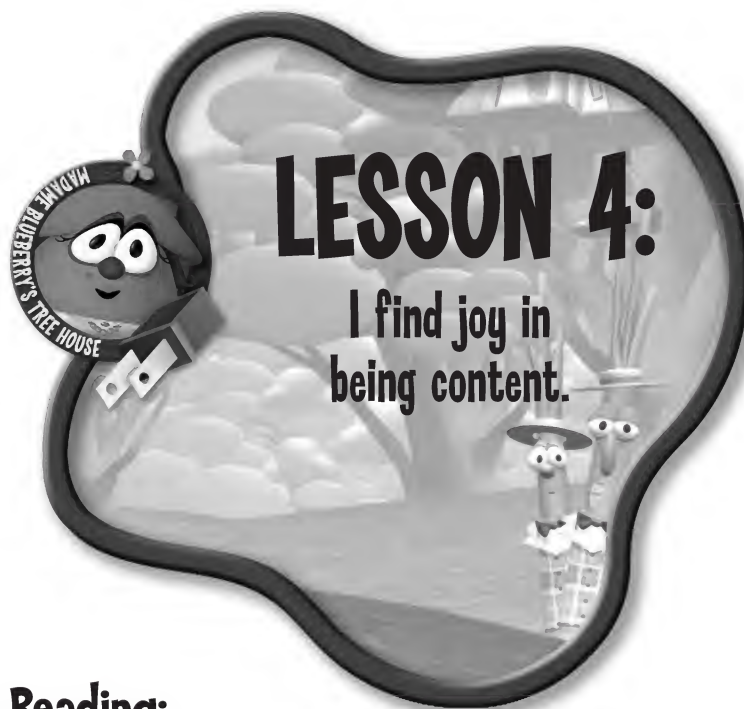
- Try having your Connection Kids walk sideways or backwards to the Tree House today!
- When kids seem to wander off task, simply sit down right in the group and show them what good listening skills look like.
- If a child does a really terrific job, specifically tell them what actions made you so proud.



**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

**content**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David waits to be king  
in God's time:

**1 Samuel 26:1-25**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

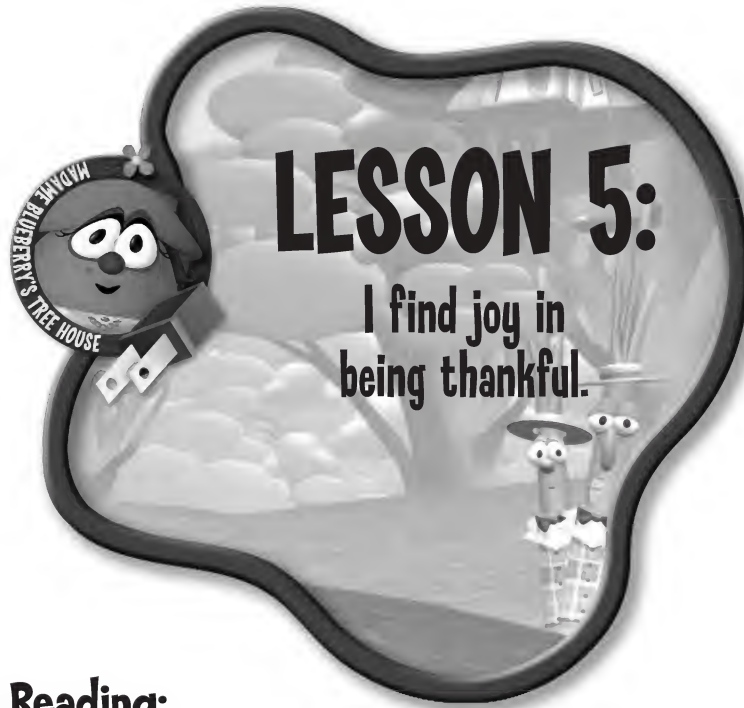
- As *VeggieConnections Music* is played, encourage your group to sing along. Add your crooning skills as well!
- Positively reinforce kids in your group (or in another) who consistently engage in appropriate behavior. This can be done with a high-five, hug, or a special handshake.
- Try to "catch" kids being good each lesson.



**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

**thankfulness**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David's prayer of  
thanksgiving:

**Samuel 7:18-29; Psalm 100**



## Leader Tips:

- Today's focus is on thankfulness. Try to start your day today with a quick prayer, thanking God for the opportunity to work with such great kids!
- If you encounter a situation with bad behavior, turn it into a teaching moment so the child can learn from the experience and make different choices next time.
- Tell any parents you see today how thankful you are to be shepherding their child.

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

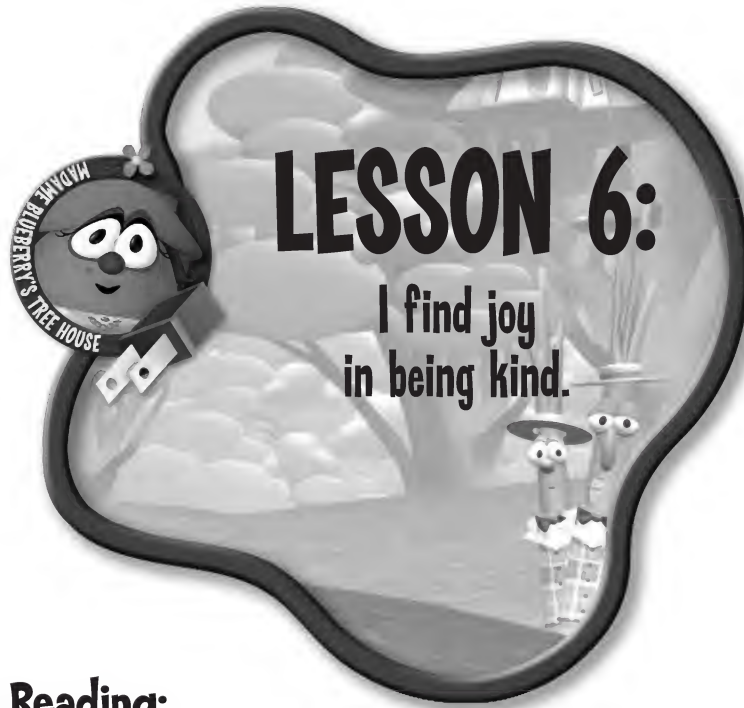
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**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:  
**compassion**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David shows kindness  
to Mephibosheth:  
**2 Samuel 9:1-13**

**THINK:** Stop and think about  
what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what  
you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God  
wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

- Today is a great day to share information with the kids about *Compassion International*. Include *Compassion* kids in prayers today.
- When dealing with negative behaviors, tell the children that you need their help in improving the situation. This will empower them and help solve the problem!
- Preschoolers have lots of energy! Be sure to take good care of yourself so you can match that energy with your own!

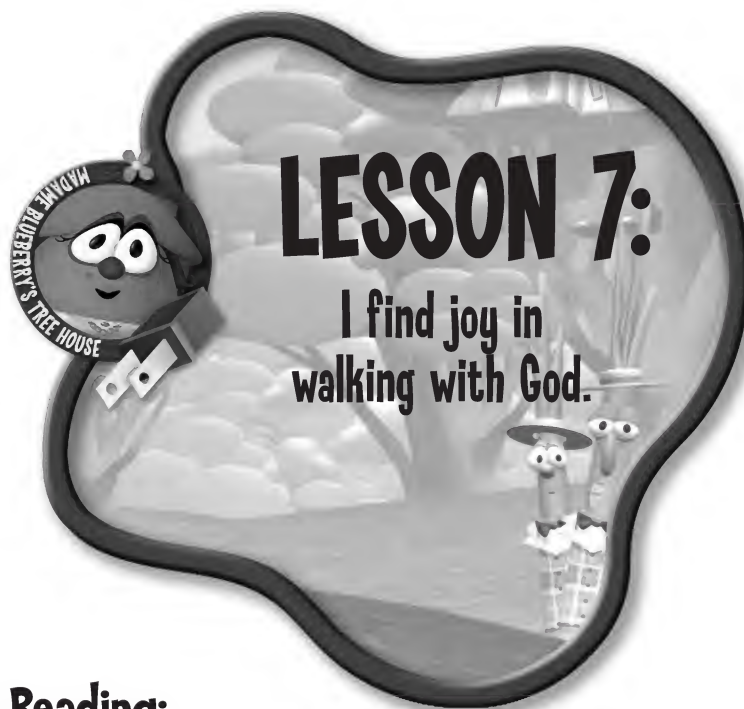




**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

**praise**



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David's song of praise:  
**2 Samuel 22**

**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!

## Leader Tips:

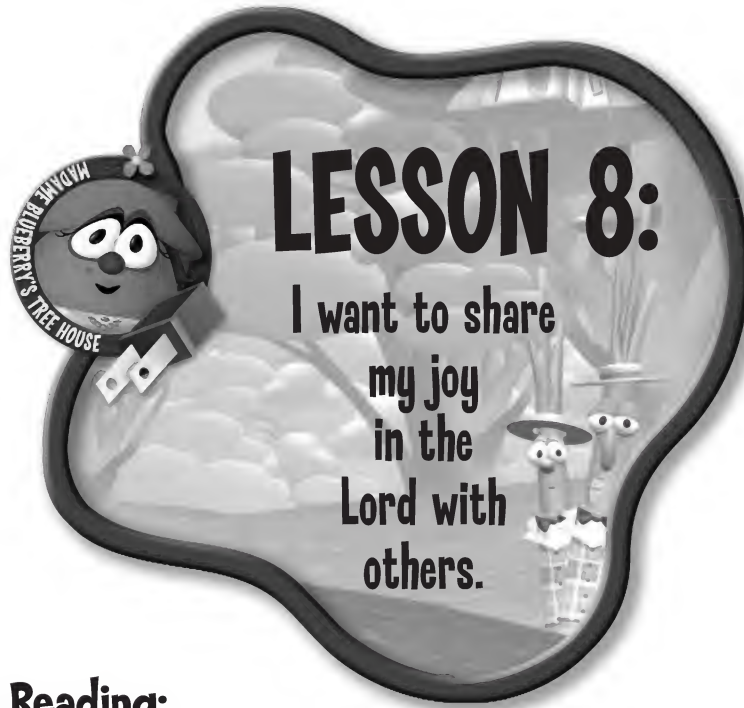
- When your kids share music they make themselves, honor them by dancing along or clapping your hands.
- Be sure to praise a child when he or she offers to help without being asked.
- Model behavior that you expect from your group of kids by doing it yourself!



**Unit Verse:** "You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand."  
Psalm 16:11

Connection Word:

psalm



## Today's Bible Reading:

Connecting to **Joy** by looking at  
**David's** life



David's psalm of praise:  
**Psalm 145**

## Leader Tips:

- Make sure to name the child specifically when you compliment him or her.
- Sometimes kids don't always meet our high expectations. Be sure to recognize when they do give their best effort.
- A smile says a lot to a preschooler!



**THINK:** Stop and think about what God wants you to do.

**LINK:** Link God's Word and what you've learned to your choices.

**ACT:** Go and act on what God wants you to do!